



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/765,487	01/27/2004	Mario Boisvert	14-733C2D1	9537
28060 7590 01/05/2009 TAROLLI, SUNDHELM, COVELL & TUMMINO, LLP 1300 EAST NINTH STREET SUITE 1700 CLEVELAND, OH 44114				
EXAMINER FLETCHER, MARLON T				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2837				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
01/05/2009		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/765,487

Applicant(s)

BOISVERT ET AL.

Examiner

Marlon T. Fletcher

Art Unit

2837

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 August 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8, 10-32, 36, 37 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5, 7 and 12-27 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 6-8, 10, 11, 28-32, 36 and 37 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ ~~Notice of Informal Patent Application~~
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 6-8, 10-11, 28-32, 36, and 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okuyama et al. (4,608,637) in view of Bamford (EP 0 581 509).

Okuyama et al. disclose an apparatus for controlling motion of a motor driven element over a range of motion and for altering said motion when undesirable resistance to the motion is encountered, said apparatus comprising: a sensor (6a, 6ab, 6d, 6da) for measuring a parameter of a motor coupled to the motor driven element that varies in response to a resistance to motion during all or part of a range of motion of the motor driven element (column 7, lines 49-62); a memory for storing a number of measurement values from the sensor based on measurements of said parameter over at least a portion of the range of motion (column 8, line 51-64); a controller (microcomputer 9) coupled to the memory for determining to de-activate the motor based on the measurement values stored in the memory as the motor driven element moves over its range of motion; and a controller interface coupled to the motor (Ma, Md, Mab, Mda) for altering motion of said motor driven element in response to a determination made by the controller (column 5, lines 9-60), wherein altering is also in response to a determination that the parameter is outside the parameter range.

As recited in claim 6, Okuyama et al. disclose an apparatus for controlling activation of a motor coupled to a motor vehicle window or panel for moving said window or panel along a travel path and deactivating the motor if an obstacle is encountered by the window or panel, said apparatus comprising: a sensor for sensing movement of the window or panel and providing a sensor output signal related to a speed of movement of the window or panel (discussed above; column 7, lines 30-37), and a controller having an interface coupled to the sensor and the switch for controllably energizing the motor (figure 4a); said controller sensing a collision with an obstruction when power is applied to the controller by: monitoring movement of the window or panel by monitoring a signal from the sensor related to the movement of the window or panel (column 7, lines 6-23; and column 8, lines 35-50), identifying a collision of the window or panel with an obstacle due to a change in the signal from the sensor that is related to a change in movement of the window or panel (Abstract; and column 8, lines 51-64); and outputting a control signal to said switch to deactivate said motor in response to a sensing of a collision between an obstacle and said window or panel (column 8, line 65 – column 9, line 7).

As recited in claims 7 and 29, Okuyama et al. disclose the apparatus, wherein the controller comprises a programmable controller including a processing unit for executing a control program and including a memory for storing multiple window or panel speed values corresponding to a signal received from the sensor (column 6, lines 52-60).

As recited in claims 8 and 30, Okuyama et al. disclose the apparatus, additionally

comprising one or more limit switches (11) for use by the controller to determine window or panel position for use in identifying a collision.

Okuyama et al. disclose the apparatus, wherein the control program adjusts an obstacle detection threshold in real time based on immediate past measures of the signal sensed by the sensor to adapt to varying conditions encountered during operation of the window or panel (column 8, lines 65 – column 9, line 7).

As recited in claim 10, and 11, Okuyama et al. disclose the method, movement is first initiated toward a closed position when a leading edge of the window or panel is near the closed position and wherein the reverse actuation is performed upon a sensing of an obstacle that is based on determining the parameter is outside the parameter range (column 7, lines 49-62).

As recited in claim 28, Okuyama et al. disclose apparatus for controlling activation of a motor for moving an object along a travel path and de-activating the motor if an obstacle is encountered by the object comprising: a) a movement sensor for monitoring movement of the object as the motor moves said object along a travel path (discussed above; a switch for controlling energization of the motor with an energization signal (column 6, lines 52-60); and a controller (microcomputer 9) including an interface coupled to the switch means for controllably energizing the motor and said interface additionally coupling the controller to the movement sensor for monitoring signals from said movement sensor (discussed above; said controller comprising a stored program that: determines motor speed from an output signal from the movement sensor; calculates an obstacle detect threshold based on motor speed of movement detected

during at least one prior period of motor operation (column 7, lines 6-36); compares a value based on currently sensed motor movement with the obstacle detect threshold; and outputs a signal from the interface to said switch for stopping the motor if the comparison based on currently sensed motor movement indicates the object has contacted an obstacle.

As recited in claim 31, Okuyama et al. disclose the method, wherein the motor driven element is a window or panel and additionally comprising reverse actuating the window or panel prior to moving said window or panel in a direction to close the window or panel (column 6, lines 24-33).

As recited in claim 32, Okuyama et al. disclose the apparatus, wherein the motor is coupled to a motor vehicle window or panel and wherein the controller includes an interface for monitoring user actuation of control inputs for controlling movement of the window or panel and wherein the controller maintains a position indication which is updated in response movement of the window or panel and further wherein the controller reverse actuations the motor near an end point in an object path of travel to avoid false obstacle detection in the region of closure of the window or panel.

Okuyama et al. do not disclose storing immediate past measurements over a present traversal of the motor.

However, Bamford discloses an apparatus for controlling motion of a motor driven element in a vehicle over a range of motion and for altering said motion when undesirable resistance to said motion is encountered, said apparatus comprising: a sensor (5) for measuring a parameter of a motor coupled to the motor driven element

that varies in response to a resistance to motion during all or part of a range of motion of the motor driven element; a memory (9) for storing a number of measurement values from the sensor based on immediate past measurements of said parameter over at least a portion of a present traversal of said motor driven element through said range of motion; a controller (6) coupled to the memory for determining to de-activate the motor based on a most recent sensor measurement of the parameter and the immediate past measurement values stored in the memory obtained during a present run through the motor driven element range of motion; and a controller interface coupled to the motor for altering motion of said motor driven element during the present run in response to a determination made by the controller (figure 3).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to utilize the teachings of Bamford with the teachings of Okuyama et al., because the teaching allow the use of more accurate and precise measurements to be used in updating the window movements to thereby more accurately detect obstructions.

However, Official Notice is taken with respect to infrared light sources being well known in the art to detect movement of an object.

It would be obvious to use any type of sensor, because the teachings merely provide alternate means for providing the same, wherein one could substitute one sensor or detector for another.

With respect to claims 36 and 37, Okuyama et al. disclose the claimed invention except for the range in which the measurements are taken (40 milliseconds). It would

have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide measurements at forty millisecond interval, since it has been held that where the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, discovering the optimum or workable ranges involves only routine skill in the art. In re Aller, 105 USPQ 233.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-5 and 12-27 are allowed.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 8/19/2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. While some of the arguments were persuasive, others were not. More specifically, the claims rejected above do not take in account a present run of the motor in comparison with immediate past measurements or threshold values. These elements in conjunction with the operation of the apparatus were found to be convincingly different from the prior art. It is well known in the art to provide obstacle detection devices that detect obstruction based on previously run operations of the element motor. However the above allowed claims appear to differ from the prior art.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marlon T. Fletcher whose telephone number is 571-272-2063. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Walter Benson can be reached on 571-272-2227. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-2173-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

MTF
12/31/2008

/Marlon T Fletcher/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2837